

## **Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Present: Boyle, Kirchner, Lauer, Myerson (arrived late), Hurd (via phone)

Absent: Benjamin

7:02 p.m. Meeting called to order

Tree Warden—account 294

Leslie Caisse represented Tree Warden Mark Caisse and reviewed the department's budget request of \$52,042, which is level-funded except for the COLA increase under salaries. Caisse explained that the tree warden was working this year with Pathfinder, a smaller company, than Northern Tree, the previous contractor. She said that in this case "the least expensive isn't always the best," as the company only has two bucket trucks and is more difficult to schedule. The contract will go out to bid again on June 30.

**Advisory Action:** Approved Unanimously (Kirchner, Lauer)

7:14 p.m. Public Works

DPW Director Joe Lynch and administrator Leslie Caisse represented the department.

Town Buildings—account 190

This budget request of \$143,942 is level-funded. Lynch said much of the DPW's time in this account is spent dealing with the Library and Public Safety buildings, which he said were "two of the town's newest and most complicated buildings that require a high degree of expertise." The coming fiscal year also represents the first full year of having the Town Common under town control, and he intends to get three bids on mowing the Common, which he plans to compare with the cost of having DPW mow the space.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimous approval. (Myerson, Lauer)

7:20 p.m. Highway—account 421

Increases in the salaries and longevity accounts reflect retroactive payments in accordance with negotiated contracts, Lynch explained. After discussing various line items, Lynch agreed to reducing his original request of \$822,729 to \$811,179.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimously approved. (Lauer, Myerson)

7:38 p.m. Construction & Maintenance—account 422

The requested budget of \$211,100 is \$1,000 higher than the current budget. This will cover additional line painting and signage, especially along the Main Street corridor.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimous approval. (Hurd, Lauer)

7:40 p.m. Snow & Ice—account 423

This budget is level-funded at \$180,000.

**Advisory Action:** Approved unanimously without discussion. (Kirchner, Myerson)

7:45 p.m. Street Lighting—account 424

Lynch told Advisory that spending on this account was “right on target.” The requested budget of \$7,950, an increase of \$650 over Fiscal 2019, reflects using higher quality conduit in wiring repairs.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimous approval. (Kirchner, Lauer)

8:00 p.m. Transfer Station—account 433

This year’s budget request of \$165,360, while roughly \$5,200 higher than the FY 2019 budget, is less than the total expended in FY 2018. Lynch explained that the transfer station is facing increasing costs for trash disposal and hauling of trash and recycling. In addition, he said, tonnage has increased more than sticker sales. Lynch said the station faces compliance issues, as well as a dramatic drop in the market for recycled materials. He said a committee, of which he is a member, is working on drafting bylaws to give Bolton enforcement authority—including a schedule of fines—for non-compliant users. Increased sticker prices, reduced hours and increased enforcement are “all on the table,” Lynch said.

**Advisory Action:** Approved unanimously. (Kirchner, Lauer)

8:10 p.m. Other accounts

Water—account 450

This budget, proposed at \$6,000, covers state-mandated monthly sampling of water at the Public Safety Building and the Library. At the suggestion of Chairman Boyle, Lynch agreed to reduce the line item by \$1,000, noting that DPW might be required to seek a transfer from Advisory Reserve in the case of “unforeseen circumstances.”

**Advisory Action:** Approved unanimously at \$5,000. (Myerson, Kirchner)

Cemetery—account 491

The budget request of \$8,000 is level-funded.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimously approved. (Kirchner, Lauer)

Celebration/Memorial Day—account 692

This account, budgeted at \$2,800, covers flags and flowers for veterans’ graves on Memorial Day. Caisse pointed out that more veterans are dying every year, and that flags need replacement. She added that the town does not pay for the “Hometown Heroes” banners. Lynch added that the success of the “Heroes” banners has called attention to the sorry condition of some of the town’s flags, so the additional funding

will enable the town to purchase higher-quality flags. “Flags shouldn’t look like something that flew over Fort Sumter,” he said.

**Advisory Action:** Unanimous approval. (Kirchner, Lauer)

**General discussion:**

Chairman Boyle points out that without any capital items, the budget is over by \$300-\$400,000 at this point. Discussion revolved around the possibility of foregoing any capital expenses and funding the general budget out of Free Cash. Nobody endorsed that approach as a policy—an all present agreed that the Nashoba Regional School District’s budget would play a crucial part in any final actions.

8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn approved unanimously. (Myerson/Kirchner)

--Submitted by Secretary Joe Myerson.